

## Message Text

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R 171738Z DEC 76  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1910  
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INFO USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PARM, NATO  
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: GDR REP DECEMBER 16 PRESS  
CONFERENCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BEGIN SUMMARY: BELOW IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF  
GDR REP'S END OF ROUND STATEMENT AND RESPONSES TO  
QUESTIONS DELIVERED IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE. GDR REP  
TOOK INITIATIVE TO REVEAL WEST HAD TABLED DATA IN THE  
PLENARY SESSION JUST PRIOR TO HIS CONFERENCE AND GAVE  
MOST OF SOVIET REP TARASOV'S COMMENT ON WESTERN DATA  
PRESENTATION. GDR REP STRESSED EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL  
AND DEMAND FOR GUARANTEES FROM NON-US DIRECT  
PARTICIPANTS RE SECOND PHASE REDUCTIONS; ALSO STATED  
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RE ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS THAT EASTERN APPROACH DOES NOT MEAN  
IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REDUCTION  
AT THE START. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, HE REITERATED  
EAST PREPARED TO DISCUSS DATA IN NEXT ROUND.  
END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED TEXT:

INTRODUCTION BY GDR SPOKESMAN:

QUOTE I WELCOME YOU TO TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO IN THE NAME OF THE HEAD OF THE GDR DELEGATION. BEFORE AMBASSADOR OESER MAKES HIS STATEMENT, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU SOME DETAILS ABOUT THE COURSE OF TODAY'S MEETING. TODAY'S MEETING TOOK PLACE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HEAD OF THE US DELEGATION, AMBASSADOR RESOR. THE SPEAKERS WERE THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION, AMBASSADOR TARASOV, AND AMBASSADOR RESOR ON BEHALF OF THE US DELEGATION. IN CONNECT WITH THE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RESOR, AMBASSADOR TARASOV ONCE AGAIN INTERVENED WITH A SHORT STATEMENT. AS YOU KNOW, TODAY'S IS THE LAST MEETING IN THIS ROUND--WE ENTER WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS INTO A CHRISTMAS RECESS AND WILL RESUME THE END OF JANUARY. THE EXACT DATE, THE EXACT TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO YOU IN A TIMELY MANNER IN THE USUAL WAY. IN CONCLUSION I WOULD REQUEST YOU, IF YOU SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE QUESTIONS FOR AMBASSADOR OESER, TO STATE BRIEFLY YOUR NEWSPAPER OR AGENCY AFFILIATION.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR OESER (SEPTTEL)

I. Q. (TASS) AMBASSADOR OESER, SINCE, AS IS KNOWN, THIS WAS THE LAST PLENARY MEETING, I SHOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU THE FOLLOWING: WHETHER THE WESTERN SIDE PRESENTED NUMERICAL DATA CONCERNING THE STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES AND, IF SO, HOW ONE EVALUATES THIS?

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A. IN THE STATEMENT OF THE US REPRESENTATIVE, NUMERICAL DATA WERE ALSO GIVEN TODAY. IN THE SUBSEQUENT INTERVENTION BY THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION THERE WAS A FIRST BRIEF COMMENT ON IT. I DO NOT REPEAT HERE THE EXT--AS YOU KNOW, THAT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE CUSTOMARY PROCEDURE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IT SEEMS TO ME IT IS IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THE IDEA--OF COURSE THE DATA WHICH WAS PRESENTED CONCERNING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WILL BE EXAMINED BY US AND THEREFORE WE CANNOT BEFORE THIS EXAMINATION ADOPT A POSITION. HOWEVER, AT FIRST GLANCE, IT IS APPARENT THAT THERE IS A DISCREPANCY WITH THE ESTIMATES AVAILABLE TO US. IN THESE REMARKS OF THE HEAD OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION MENTION WAS ALSO MADE OF THE TROOPS OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE WERE DISPARITIES IN THE AREA. THESE STATEMENTS ARE IN GROSS CONTRADICTION TO THE ACTUAL SITUATION AND CANNOT HELP TO ADVANCE THE NEGOTIATIONS. AS FAR AS THIS SIDE IS CONCERNED, WE CAN ONLY SAY THAT ONE MUST READ BETWEEN THE LINES. WE WANT A FACTUAL EXPLORATION, WE WANT NO PREJUDGMENT IN THE

DISCUSSIONS, WE WANT THE DATA TO BE WHAT THEY MUST BE--AN AID TO CLARIFYING THE QUESTION OF MUTUAL AND EQUIVALENT REDUCTION. WE HAVE TO SOLVE THIS KEY QUESTION, NUMERICAL DATA CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THIS, AND THEIR FACTUAL EXAMINATION MUST SERVE THIS PURPOSE. DIVERSIONARY DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE AIMED AT SUPPORTING THE ARTIFICIAL SCHEME OF ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTION AND THEREBY VIOLATING THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE SOCIALIST STATES WILL ONLY DISTRACT FROM THE GOAL OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS.

FURTHER QUESTIONS?

2. (DIE PRESSE) MR. AMBASSADOR, AT THE END OF THE NINTH ROUND, AMBASSADOR DE VOS DESCRIBED THE NUMERICAL DATA PRESENTED BY THE EASTEN SIDE AS REPRESENTING A SUBSTANTIAL DISCREPANCY FROM THE WESTERN ESTIMATES AND SAID THIS MUST BE CLARIFIED IN THIS ROUND, THE TENTH ROUND. CAN THIS BE CLARIFIED?

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A. THE WHOLE TENTH ROUND HAS GONE BY WITHOUT THE NUMERICAL DATA FROM THE WESTERN SIDE. NOW, TODAY HAVE THEY FINALLY BEEN GIVEN. TO THIS EXTENT THEY CAN BE WORKED WITH IN THE NEXT ROUND. I THOUGHT, WE WILL EXAMINE THEM AND MAKE USE OF WHAT SERVES THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK. THE FACT IS, AND WE FIND IT A CAUSE FOR CRITICISM, THAT AS I EXPLAINED TO YOU IN MY STATEMENT THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS SINCE FEBRUARY HAVE NOT REACTED TO OUR PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY, AND OUR NUMERICAL DATA WERE INTENDED TO SERVE THE PURPOSE OF MAKING THIS PROPOSAL MORE CONCRETE. THEREFORE, IN THE CENTER OF THE AGENDA, NOW AS BEFORE, AND ALSO IN THE NEXT ROUND IS THE SOLUTION OF THE KEY QUESTION OF COMING TO AN AGREEMENT ON THE MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS. THE

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

ADOPT A RIGID NEGOTIATING POSITION AND ONE SHOULD SAY,  
THAT IS THE LAST WHICH WE HAVE OFFERED, WE ARE NOT  
READY TO DISCUSS COMPROMISES, OR CARRY ON DIALOGS. SUCH  
ATTITUDES ARE NEITHER FEW NOR INSIGNIFICANT. THESE ARE  
ATTITUDES WHICH RUN CONTRARY TO DETENTE AND TO THE  
COMPLEMENTING OF THIS DETENTE, THE MILITARY RELAXATION,  
THROUGH EFFECTIVE MEASURES. EVERYTHING I HAVE SAID  
EXPRESSES OUR CONVECTION THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF  
UNDERSTANDING EXISTS AND ALSO IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
THERE ARE THOSE WHO SEE IT SO. I RECALL AN ARTICLE BY  
THE BUNDESTAG DEPUTY PAWELCZK WHICH SAID THAT CONTRARY  
TO THE PREVALENT OPINION, AND HE MEANT THE PREVALENT  
OPINION OBVIOUSLY IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OR IN THE  
WEST, THE POSITIONS ARE REALLY NOT SO FAR APART AND  
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THEREFORE THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES FOR UNDERSTANDING.  
I WOULD SHARE THIS ONINION. OUR FEBRUARY PROPOSAL  
HAS TAKEN UP SUBSTANDTIAL ELEMENTS AND HAS OFFERED  
A FRAMEWORK, TOOK UP SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS SO THAT  
A NARROWING DOWN OR COMING TOGETHER OF POSITIONS COULD  
BE REACHED IN THAT IT WOULD ALLOW CONSTRUCTIVE AND  
DETAILED POSSIBILITIES TO WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT. WE  
CRITICIZE THE FACT THAT THESE POSSIBILITIES HAVE NOT  
BEEN TAKEN UP BY THE WESTERN SIDE. WE CRITICIZE THAT  
THEIR ONLY ANSWER IS A REPETITION OF THE ARGUMENT  
THAT THEIR PROPOSAL OF DECEMBER HAS NOT BEEN ANSWERED.  
ONE CAN'T MAINTAIN THAT, WHEN ONE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT  
THAT WE AGREED THAT THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN FORCES  
WOULD BE REDUCED TO BEGIN WITH AND THAT THE WEST  
EUROPEAN STATES COULD WAIT AND THAT THEY WOULD ONLY

FREEZE. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO STRESS HERE THAT WE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE FEBRUARY PROPOSAL A SERIES OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS. I HAVE MENTIONED THAT IN MY STATEMENT. THREE OF THE WEAPONS SYSTEMS MENTIONED WERE PROPOSED BY THE WEST; WE ADDED A FOURTH ONE. THESE ARE SUBSTANTIAL QUESTIONS OF PROCEDURE, IN ORDER TO MAKE A BEGINNING AND IN ORDER TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS STANDS THE QUESTION OF AN EQUIVALENT REDUCTION AND TO ENSURE IT. WE CANNOT GIVE UP THIS POINT BECAUSE THIS IS NECESSARY FOR A JUST AND EFFECTIVE RESULT.

9. Q. (ADN) UNCLEAR

A. ... PARTICIPATION IN THE SECOND PHASE OF REDUCTIONS IS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT OBSTACLES TO PROGRESS. THE MILITARY DETENTE AND THE REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE IS HARDLY SEPARABLE. ALL DIRECT PARTICIPATING STATES MUST MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS. OUR PROPOSALS PROCEED FROM THE FACT THAT AN EQUIVALENT REDUCTION OF ALL PARTICIPANTS TAKE PLACE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THEREBY MAINTAIN THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES BETWEEN THEM. IF ONE EXCLUDES THE WEST EUROPEAN STATES AND CANADA--THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT--THEN 75 PERCENT, THAT IS TO SAY, THE BIGGEST PART, THE MOST IMPORTANT FIGHTING COMPONENTS OF THE NATO FORCES IN THE WESTERN AREA OF REDUCTIONS WOULD BE EXCLUDED. THE REDUCTION OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN FORCES MEANS FOR US ON OUR SIDE, FOR THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, THAT WE WOULD BE WITHOUT A GUARANTEE FOR OUR SECURITY OF THE SOVIET TROOPS THAT THE WEST EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS MUST GO ALONG IN THE SECOND PHASE. OTHERWISE IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

10. Q. (ADN) MR. AMBASSADOR, YOU SAID IN CONNECTION WITH THE DATA THAT THEY WOULD BE CONSIDERED HELPFUL FOR REDUCTIONS. WELL, IF ONE ASSUMES THAT THIS CENTRAL QUESTION WHETHER ONE CONSIDERS THAT REDUCTIONS WOULD BE SYMMETRICAL OR ASYMMETRICAL, THEN THE DATA PROBLEM BECOMES ESSENTIALLY A SUBSTANTIVE ONE. I CAN RECALL, I DON'T KNOW WHICH ROUND IT WAS, THERE WAS ALREADY SOME ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE DEFINITION OF FORCES IN ORDER TO CLARIFY WHAT ONE SHOULD ACTUALLY COUNT AND TO WHICH BRANCHES THEY SHOULD BE COUNTED IN. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT IN THE NEXT ROUND THAT YOU WOULD GIVE ATTENTION TO THIS PROBLEM OF DEFINITIONS AGAIN IN ORDER TO HAVE CLARITY WITH RESPECT TO DATA. THE SECOND QUESTION CONCERNS STATEMENTS BY WESTERN

POLITICAL LEADERS CONCERNING THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT  
THEY COULD GIVE THEM A POSITIVE DIRECTION. WOULD  
YOU CONCLUDE FROM THIS HERE IN VIENNA, IN ORDER TO  
COME ANY FURTHER, A POLITICAL DECISION WOULD BE  
WELCOME FROM A POLITICAL LEVEL SO THAT THE SO-CALLED  
BREAKTHROUGH CAN BE CREATED?

A. YOU SAID IT QUITE CORRECTLY. A BREAKTHROUGH MUST  
BE CREATED. WE BELIEVE THAT THE POINT OF DEPARTURE  
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EXISTS ALREADY. REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DATA,  
I HAVE ALREADY CHARACTERIZED IT. IN THE EXISTING  
RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES AS WE SEE IT, I WOULD LIKE TO  
REPEAT IT IS NOO ONLY OUR CONCEPTION THAT THERE  
EXISTS AN APPROACHING PARITY. I HAVE ALREADY QUOTED  
SOME VOICES. IT HAS NOT BEEN SO LONG AGO, AND  
INVOLVED A REALISTIC APPROACH THAT TAKES INTO  
CONSIDERATION ALL FACTORS, AND FACTUALLY BRINGS THEM  
INTO BALANCE AND THAT WE HAVE SAID TO THIS THAT IT  
COULD ONLY LEAD TO THE CONSLUSION THAT EQUIVALENT  
REDUCTIONS ARE NECESSARY, WHEREBY I SEE THE EQUIVALENT  
REDUCTIONS AS A KEY POINT AND THAT THEY ARE CONCERNED

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

CENTRAL POINT IS TO WORK OUT A RAPPROCHEMENT, COMPROMISES. I HAVE TRIED TO MAKE CLEAR TO YOU THAT OUR PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ANY KIND OF COMPLETELY SOUND AND BROAD PLATFORM AND I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN THAT WE, DESPITE THE UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION IN THIS ROUND, THAT SUCH A READINESS, SUCH A COUNTER-PROPOSAL, SUCH A REACTION HAS NOT BEEN SHOWN BY THE WESTERN SIDE AND WE HAVE TRIED TO GET DISCUSSION GOING ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSAL AND TO FIND CONCRETE POINTS OF RAPPROCHEMENT. THEREFORE, I CAN SAY WITH A COMPLETE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY THAT A READINESS FOR COMPROMISE AND DIALOG WAS LACKING ON THE WESTERN SIDE AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO POSITIVE REACTION TO THE INITIATIVE

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FROM OUR SIDE.

3. Q. (DIE PRESSE) MAY I ASK A LAST QUESTION. ONCE AGAIN ON THE DATA. YOU HAVE MENTIONED THAT THE WESTERN SIDE TODAY GAVE NUMERICAL DATA. HOWEVER, THE WEST HAS SAID THAT DATA HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN AND REFERRED TO THE DATA OF 1973. MY QUESTION IS, DO THE DATA PRESENTED TODAY DIFFER FROM THOSE OF 1973?

A. I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO DETAILS HERE. WHAT I SAID TO YOU IS CORRECT, IT IS A QUESTION OF MAKING SOMETHING MORE PRECISE. I WOULD SAY: NO GREAT CHANGES IN THE STRENGTH OF THE WESTERN ARMED FORCES, IF ONE LOOKS CLOSELY. I WOULD SAY IT REFLECTS THE FACT THAT AN INCREASE OCCURRED IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE REDUCTION AREA. AND WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE CRITICAL NOTE OF IS THAT IT GAVE A NEGATIVE ASPECT TO THE POINT OF DEPARTURE, FROM 1973, THROUGH THE ASSERTION OF ASYMMETRIES, ALTHOUGH IN THE MEANTIME SOMETHING WAS INDEED GOING ON - INTER ALIA, IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. Q. (LE MONDE) WHAT KIND OF DATA WERE GIVEN YOU TODAY? OVERALL NUMBERS OR ALSO NUMBERS OF THE GROUND FORCES. WHAT DO THESE DATA SHOW?

A. THE DATA GIVEN FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE WESTERN

PARTICIPANTS CONCERN THE TOTAL SIZE OF THE GROUND AND AIR FORCES AND, WITHIN THAT, THE GROUND FORCES.

5. Q. (REUTERS) WHAT IS YOUR OPINION, MR. AMBASSADOR. WHEN DID THE SOVIET DELEGATION RENEW THEIR PROPOSALS THT ALL PARTICIPATING STATES ... (UNCLEAR)

A. SINCE IN THIS ROUND LIKEWISE BECAUSE OF THE HESITATIONS OF THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS NO TANGIBLE RESULTS COULD BE ACHIEVED, ON THE OTHER SIDE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACTS ARE VERY WELL KNOWN TO YOU THAT A CONTINUAL INCREASE AND STRENGTHENING OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE NATO COUNTRIES IS TAKING PLACE IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE REDUCTION AREA AND FURTHERMORE A CONTINUAL PROPAGANDA, WHICH TURNS THE FACTS AROUND, IS DIRECTED AT THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, IT SEEMS TO US VERY APPROPRIATE TO RENEW THE PROPOSAL NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE ARMED FORCES AT LEAST FOR THE DURATIN OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I BELIEVE IT IS, IT WOULD BE A GENUINE STEP TOWARD BUILDING CONFIDENCE IT COULD IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES. I HAVE REFERRED IN THIS CONNECTION TO STATEMENTS OF WESTERN POLITICAL FIGURESWHICH SHOW A CERTAIN TREND OF THOUGHT, OBVIOUSLY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE MOOD OF A LARGE PART OF THE PUPULATION, WHICH URGE RESULTS IN THE MILITARY RELAXATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE, ALSO TAKE SUCH A MEASURE INTO CONSIDERATION, REGARD IT AS REASONABLE, AS A BEGINNING. THOSE ARE THE MOTIVES AND WE HOLD FIRMLY TO THIS AND INTEND THAT IN THE NEXT ROUND THIS SHALL ALSO BE A POINT WITH WHICH ONE BEGINS THE WORK, ON WHICH ONE WOULD REACH AGREEMENT. APART FROM THE BROADER QUESTION, NATURALLY, OF THE REDUCTION RESULTS, THAT IS THE MAIN QUESTION, IT SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO IT.

6. Q. (REUTERS) MR. AMBASSADOR, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU WHETHER YOU THINK THE PRESENTATION OF THE NEW WESTERN DATA TODAY WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO MOVE INTO A MORE BUSINESSLIKE PHASE IN THE NEXT ROUND, AND ALSO WHETHER THE PRESENTATION ON THE WESTERN SIDE TODAY INCLUDED DATA ON THE EASTERN FORCES. IF SO, WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THAT?

A. THE SOCIALIST STATES WITH THEIR FEBRUARY PROPOSAL HAVE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR DECLARED INTENTION AT THE PARTY CONGRESSES, WHICH HAVE CONFIRMED THE MAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE



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LINE, UNDERTAKEN SERIOUS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE EXACTLY THAT, WHICH YOU HAVE MENTIONED, NAMELY AN ACTIVIZATION AND CONCRETIZATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE, WE REGARD OUR FEBRUARY PROPOSAL AND THE PRESENTATION OF NUMERICAL DATA AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE AS A UNITY WHICH AIMS EXACTLY AT LEADING US INTO THE CONCRETE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE SOLUTION OF THE REDUCTION QUESTION. IT IS ALL THE MORE REGRETTABLE THAT, DESPITE THE DECLARED INTENTION OF THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO MOVE THIS QUESTION OF THE DATA OUT OF THE WAY AS A HINDRANCE FOR THIS WORK, HAVE TAKEN SO LONG BEFORE PRESENTING THEIR DATA TODAY. IF IN THE NEXT ROUND THERE IS A CONSTRUCTIVE REACTION TO OUR PROPOSAL, A THOROUGH DIALOG, THEN A DISCUSSION, A SUBSTANTIVE ONE, NOT ONE DISTRACTING FROM THE TASK OF EQUIVALENT REDUCTION, COULD NATURALLY MAKE A CONTRIBUTION, WE VERY MUCH HOPE SO. THE ATMOSPHERE OF BOTH, IN THE SENSE OF A SUBSTANTIVE WORK, TO BRING ABOUT CONSTRUCTIVE RESULTS. AS FOR THE OTHER QUESTION, I BELIEVE I HAVE ALREADY ANSWERED IT.

7. Q. (NBC) I ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF THERE WAS ANY COMMENT ON THE WESTERN SIDE ABOUT THE EASTERN FORCES -- NOT THE WESTERN FORCES. I KNOW THE WESTERN DATA WAS GIVEN. WHAT IS YOUR REACTION, WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE EASTERN FORCES?

A. I HAVE GIVEN THIS REACTION AT THE BEGINNING, I DON'T WANT TO DWELL ON IT FURTHER. IT WAS ALREADY ENOUGH.

8. Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ARRIVED AT DEAD CENTER? IT IS A QUESTION HERE OF TWO DIFFERENT PRINCIPLES. I RECALL THAT AT THE LAST PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE YOU WERE NOT ENTIRELY AS PESSIMISTIC AS TODAY.

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A. YOU GIVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS AN IMPORTANT THOUGHT. WE ARE NOT PESSIMISTIC, WE ARE ALSO NOT OF THE OPINION THAT THIS SERVES THE CAUSE OF THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS. IT SEEMS TO US THAT EXPRESSIONS OF PESSIMISM COME VERY FREQUENTLY JUST FROM THE DIRECTION WHERE AT THE SAME TIME IT IS SAID, ONE SHOULD SHOW NO WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE, ONE SHOULD HOLD

STUBBORNLY TO THE SCHEME OF THE NATO STATES AND NOT  
DEVIATE AT ALL, NOT A MILLIMETER, FROM IT, ONE SHOULD

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

NOT ONLY WITH DATA, BUT ALSO WITH THE REDUCTION  
METHOD. IT IS NATURALLY NOT HELPFUL THAT THE EASTERN  
SIDE WITH COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING FOR THE SIGNIFICANCE  
OF REDUCTIONS IS ASKED FOR A SOVIET TANK ARMY WITH  
ALL OF ITS EQUIPMENT, AND ON THE WESTERN SIDE, ONLY  
INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS ARE WITHDRAWN. WE HAVE ALREADY  
HAD THE EXPERIENCE THAT PERSONNEL REORGANIZATION  
MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN AND AT THE SAME TIME, THE  
SITUATION OF THE BRIGADE CAN BE INCREASED FIVE TIMES  
IN THE COURSE OF ONE YEAR. EQUIVALENCY, THEREFORE,  
ALSO REFERS, ABOVE ALL AND BASICALLY, TO THE QUESTION THAT  
ARMAMENTS ARE WITHDRAWN. IT JUST CAN'T BE THAT ON  
THE SOVIALIST SIDE ARMAMENTS REMAIN EXCLUDED. THE PROPOSAL  
CONCERNING REDUCING SOME NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN PRACTICAL  
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TERMS INVOLVES A OPENING BECAUSE EVERYTHING COULD BE EXPANDED AGAIN BY THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS. THERE MUST BE AN EFFECTIVE EQUIVALENT REDUCTION. WE DO NOT WANT ANY EYEWASH. WE WANT EQUIVALENT PLEDGES FROM BOTH SIDES AND WE WANT EFFECTIVE RESULTS, A REDUCTION OF THE LEVEL OF FORCES IN A MANNER WHICH CAN BE FELT. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE ARE SAYING ALL OR NOTHING, THE FIFTEEN PERCENT OR NOTHING ELSE. OUR PROPOSALS FORESEE DIFFERENT VARIATIONS, AND WE ARE IN THIS CONNECTION FLEXIBLE, AND IT REMAINS TO MAKE AN EFFECTIVE BEGINNING.

10. Q. (SWISS NEWS AGENCY) DO YOU NOT BELIEVE THAT THE QUANTITATIVE STRENGTHENING OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH RESPECT TO THE EAST HAS A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON BUILDING CONFIDENCE?

A. THE FACT IS THAT THE STRENGTHENINGS, WHICH ARE KNOWN WITH RESPECT TO THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF THE ARMED FORCES OF NATO HAVE BEEN GOING ON IN THE RECENT PAST AND AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE HERE HAVE ENCOUNTERED AN IMMOBILITY AND A LACK OF READINESS FOR COMPROMISE OR FOR DIALONG ON THE PART OF THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS. THE SOVIALIST STATES ARE READY TO REDUCE ON A MUTUAL BASIS. WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THIS, AND OUR PROPOSALS ARE EVIDENCE OF THIS. FURTHER EVIDENCE IS OUR OFFER-- RECENTLY RENEWED-- TO FREEZE THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE ARMED FORCES. WE TAKE NOTE THAT THERE IS A GROWING PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE SOCIALIST STATES, AGAINST THEIR ARMIES, WHICH TURNS THE FACTS AROUND. HOWEVER, WE ALSO TAKE NOTE THAT THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS IN A WELL-TIMED MANNER BEFORE CORRESPONDING MEASURES ARE UNDERTAKEN BY NATO. I BELIEVE ONE SHOULD ORIENT HIMSELF HEREIN VIENNA IN ORDER TO STUDY THE DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS AND PRESS FOR THEIR REALIZATION. THE SOVIALIST STATES DO FOR DEFENSE WHAT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR FOREIGN

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POLICY. ONE CANNOT CARRY ON ONE'S DEFENSE EFFORTS IN CONTRADICTION TO ONE'S FOREIGN POLICY. EVERYTHING WE HAVE DONE IN PAST YEARS SERVES THE CAUSE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTANCE AND DETENTE AND IT HAS BEEN THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS STATES WHICH HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PURSUE A POLICY OF STRENGTH DURING THE RECENT PERIOD.

11. Q. (AP) MR. AMBASSADOR, PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER IN THE UNITED STATES HAS SEVERAL TIMES ALREADY INDICATED HIS SPECIFIC INTEREST IN THE PROGRESS OF THE TROOP REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, INTER ALIA IN VIENNA. THE QUESTION IS, WHETHER YOU EXPECT FROM THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION ANY KIND OF NEW IMPULSE OR A NEW POSITION?

A. THE HESITATION IN THE WESTERN ATTITUDE THIS YEAR WAS ATTRIBUTABLE IN PART TO THE ELECTIONS IN THE USA AND IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. I CANNOT SAY WHETHER THAT IS THE ONLY REASON. BUT CERTAINLY, WE EXPRESS THE EXPECTATION THAT THE NEW AMERICAN GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER WILL CONTRIBUTE TO OVERCOMING THE WESTERN PASSIVITY AND THAT IT WILL HELP TO BRING ABOUT AND TO SUPPORT A REALISTIC POSITION ON THE PART OF THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS.

12. Q. (DIE PRESSE) YOU ALWAYS SPEAK OF FURTHER ARMING ON THE PART OF THE WESTERN STATES. CAN YOU EXCLUDE THAT DURING THE TIMES OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS THAT THE WARSAW PACT IS NOT UNDERTAKING ANY STRENGTHENING OF ITS TROOPS, NO STRENGTHENING OF ITS ARMAMENTS? BECAUSE I AM THINKING ESPECIALLY OF THE GROWING MECHANIZATION OF THE UNITS OF THE SOVIET TROOPS IN THE GDR.

A. OUR MISSION HERE IN VIENNA IS THE REDUCTION OF ALL FORCES, ALSO OURS, FORCES WHICH ARE STATIONED ON OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OWN TERRITORY, AND TO NEGOTIATE ON A MUTUAL, EQUITABLE BASIS. AND WE ARE AGAINST PROPOSED STEPS TOWARDS ARMING WHICH RUN CONTRARY IN THIS CONNECTION TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS. I DO NOT WISH TO TAKE A FURTHER POSITION. I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS, ABOVE ALL, WHAT I SAID EARLIER, THAT THERE IS A VERY POWERFUL PROPAGANDA WHICH SEEKS TO JUSTIFY ARMING MEASURES IN WESTERN COUNTRIES AND THERE IS NO REASON FOR THIS.

13. Q. YOU HAVE SPOKEN REPEATEDLY ABOUT YOUR FREEZE PROPOSAL. MAY I ASK A QUESTION IN THIS CONNECTION. HAS ANYTHING IN ANY WAY IN THIS CONCEPT BEEN MADE MORE PRECISE BY YOUR SIDE, THAT IS FROM THE EASTERN SIDE, TO LOOK AT THIS PROJECT AGAIN? IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE A MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF AGREEMENT ON INTENTIONS, OR WAS IT COUPLED WITH CONCRETE CONTROL MEASURES?

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /090 W

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R 171738Z DEC 76

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1914

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

A. YOU REMIND ME THAT I DID NOT COMPLETELY ANSWER A PART OF A PREVIOUS QUESTION. IT'S THE QUESTION IN WHICH I MADE REFERENCE TO POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ... NO, TO WESTERN POLITICAL LEADERS. I WANT TO REPEAT IT. WE HAVE NOTED POSITIONS OF POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PURSUASION, AMONG OTHERS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD BRANDT, BUT OTHERS AS WELL, WHOP HAVE UNDERLINED THAT SOME ARE THINKING ABOUT THIS, ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY DURING THE TIME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO FREEZE. THAT'S A QUESTION WORTH THINKING OVER IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. AND TO US IT SEEMS WORTHWHILE TO RAISE IT, BECAUSE IT UNDERLINES THAT IT IS A POSITION FOR TRUST IN THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO BRING IT IN.

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NATURALLY, THIS DOESN'T DEPEND THAT SUCH THINGS ARE REFLECTED HERE AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, AND UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS A DISCREPANCY HERE SINCE IT HAS NOT BEEN THE

CASE UP TO NOW. WE CAN ONLY EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT SUCH POSITIONS WILL BE PUT THROUGH AND WILL BE REFLECTED HERE. REGARDING THE CONCRETE PART OF THE QUESTION. IT HAS BEEN OUR OVERALL APPROACH, THIS IS WHAT WE ALWAYS DO, CONTRACTUALLY TO ENSURE THAT IT GAINS SOME HEADWAY HERE, FOR MUTUALLY AGREED-UPON DISARMAMENT STEPS. I DON'T WISH TO GO INTO FURTHER DETAIL.

I DON'T SEE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS. I ONLY WISH TO SAY I THANK YOU FOR YOUR NUMEROUS QUESTIONS. I WISH TO UNDERLINE THAT THE TENTH ROUND, REGRETTABLY, DID NOT BRING ANY PROGRESS. THAT IS, IT IS THE ENDEAVOR OF THE SOCIALIST STATES TO WORK THAT THE DIALOGUE WILL COME FORTH, AND THAT IT DEPENDS ON THE NATO STATES REPRESENTED HERE TO TAKE A STEP AND UNDERTAKE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH MAKE POSSIBLE DIALOGUE ON THE FACTUAL QUESTIONS ON THE BASIS OF REDUCTIONS AND THAT, THEREBY, WE PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON A COMPREHENSIVE MANNER TO SECURE REDUCTIONS OF EQUAL VALUE. BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN, AS IT IS SAID SOMETIMES IN WESTERN TERMS, THAT ACROSS-THE BOARD REDUCTIONS WILL BE ASKED. WE ARE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SELECTED QUESTIONS, BUT NOT ARBITRARILY. WE ARE FOR HAVING LAND AND AIR FORCES INCLUDED -- IT IS HERE THAT THE IMPORTANT COMPONENTS OF NUCLEAR POWER ARE. ONE CANNOT EXCLUDE AIR FORCES AND THEREBY, IN THIS IMPORTANT COMPONENT, LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY FOR EXPANSION AND PLANNING. BUT THIS CONCEPT DOES NOT MEAN THAT ONE SHOULD TAKE UP EVERYTHING AT ONCE. RATHER, ONE SHOULD MAKE A WELL-BALANCED CONSIDERATION THAT ALL FACTORS ARE INCLUDED AND EQUALLY REDUCED. THAT IS THE FOUNDATION THAT BOTH SIDES, NATURALLY, HAVE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION OF DATA AND KEEP THIS IMPORTANT BASIC POINT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN MIND. BECAUSE IN THE NEXT ROUND IT CANNOT BE THAT THE DISCUSSION OF DATA IS THE KEY. IT CAN AND SHOULD HELP, PROVIDED THAT IT PROCEEDS FROM A REALISTIC BASIS. ENDECLASSIFIED TEXT. RESOR

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